arts & humanities

ARTS

Brothers, Cammy. Michelangelo, Drawing, and the Invention of Architecture. **Yale Univ. 2008. 272p. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 978-0-300-12489-7. $65.** ARCHITECTURE
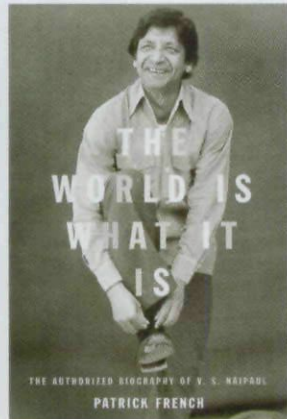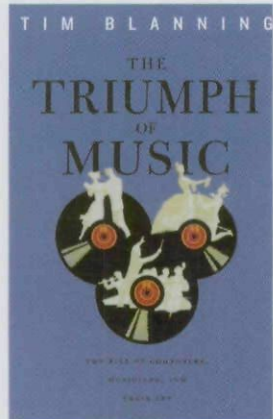
As the definitive mannerist architect, Michelangelo challenged conventions of form, space, order, and scale. Brothers (architecture, Univ. of Virginia) presents the possibility that Michelangelo may have been among the first to conceive of drawing as a means to architectural design. Appropriately, she begins with an analysis of the artist's drawing techniques and their incorporation into the Sistine Chapel ceiling figures, reminding us that painter-architects were more the norm than the exception. The particular contribution here, however, lies in Brothers's analysis of the most celebrated of Michelangelo's architectural work, the Laurentian Library vestibule, which links the

Clottes, Jean. Cave Art: A Unique Guided Tour of the Earliest Expressions of Human Creativity. **Phaidon. 2008. 336p. illus. maps.** bibliog. index. ISBN 978-0-7148-4592-0. **$90.** ARCHITECTURE

With the discovery of the Chauvet cave in the 1990s, the earliest indisputable evidence of human artistry has been pushed back over 10,000 years. Recent research has further clarified our understanding of the development of European Paleolithic art. Clottes (*Return to Chauvet Cave*), one of the leading scholars in this field, provides a survey of the various phases of the earliest art history. The book is presented like an exhibition catalog—a brief introductory essay summarizes the latest findings, followed by hundreds of color photos, each accompanied by a highly informative entry statement. The art reproduced includes cave wall paintings, engravings, and three-dimensional sculptures. In addition, the volume offers a chronological diagram, a glossary, and a list of sites open to the public. Highly recommended as a visual

How to become king of the arts, the award winner at his best and worst, and an assured debut

upper cloister and the reading room at San Lorenzo in Florence. For this, architecture becomes the subject, no longer subordinate to sculpture, no longer framing the human figure. Each detail of the space is described in relation to the architect's drawing skills and innate sense of architectural composition. Although not as well illustrated as Giulio Carlo Argan and Bruno Contardi's *Michelangelo: Architect* and far narrower in its perspective, this book will substantially deepen larger collections on architecture of the late Renaissance.—**Paul Glassman, Felician Coll. Lib., Lodi, NJ**

Clottes, Jean. Cave Art: A Unique Guided Tour of the Earliest Expressions of Human Creativity. **Phaidon. 2008. 336p. illus. maps.**

survey for any library with an interest in art and archaeology.—**Eugene C. Burt, Seattle**

Curtis, Edward Sheriff (photogs.) & Joanna Cohan Scherer (text). Edward Sheriff Curtis. **Phaidon. 2008. 128p. photogs. ISBN 978-0-7148-4176-2. $39.95.** PHOTOG

Curtis (1868–1952) is best known for his ethnographic photography documenting the North American native people and cultures. Under the patronage of J.P. Morgan in the early 20th century, Curtis focused his lens on the tribes of the western United States and Canada. He was a master of soft focus, and the chiaroscuro effects of this technique give his photographs an arresting, painterly impression. By some recent scholars, he has been accused of dressing up his subjects to

overemphasize notions of a vanishing race or Rousseauian noble savagery; however, his images form an important record of traditional ways of life and American aesthetic renditions of Native American cultures. Scherer (anthropology, emerita, Smithsonian Inst.) introduces this monograph, which contains nearly 60 beautifully printed sepia photographs, a good introductory sampling of Curtis's vast body of work. There are numerous examples of his compelling portraiture—the close-up face of the aging Nez Percé Chief Joseph is probably the most famous—in addition to the romantic pastoral scenes that can be seen reproduced throughout the rural West. Any library that does not already own one of the many editions of Curtis's definitive series, *The North American Indian*, would find this a worthwhile purchase.—**Douglas F. Smith, Berkeley P.L., CA**

Feldstein, Peter (photogs.) & Stephen G. Bloom (text). The Oxford Project. **Welcome, dist. by Random. 2008. 287p. photogs. maps. index. ISBN 978-1-59962-048-0. $50.** PHOTOG

In this cleverly designed and artfully illustrated publication, artist Feldstein and Bloom (journalism & mass communication, Univ. of Iowa; *Postville: A Clash of Cultures in Heartland America*) document inhabitants of the small town of Oxford, IA, with more than 300 black-and-white photographic portraits and first-person narratives. Feldstein, who was living in Oxford in 1984, offered to photograph for free all the town's residents; 20 years later, he photographed as many of his previous subjects as he could locate, and Bloom interviewed 100 of the residents. Masterfully and collaboratively conceived, this book consists of demographic, historical, and visual data about Oxford and snapshots of the town's inhabitants in 1984 juxtaposed to those taken in present times, many of which are offset by their stories. Of significance to humanities scholars and social scientists as well as to general readers who may relate to its subjects, this work provides a good glimpse of small-town America but is unlikely to be the most authoritative vision. Accompanying a traveling exhibition to China and Italy, this publication is strongly recommended for many undergraduate academic, large public, and local library collections, particularly those encompassing documentary photography and narrative journalism.—**Cheryl Ann Lajos, Free Lib. of Philadelphia**